



**A large portion of the Kendall Square rooftop garden was fenced off as of Thursday.** Part of the garden will be replaced by a two-story connector building occupied by Google. The approval process for the connector has been quite controversial, with the City Council approving the work only after believing the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority had done so, though in fact the Authority had no quorum at the time. Last week, CRA Executive Director Joseph Tulimieri resigned amidst questions about his salary and compensation. City Manager Robert W. Healy has appointed Susan Glazer from the city's Community Development department to head up the CRA in the interim. Both Tulimieri and administrative assistant Tracy Mercer, who also resigned last week, did not respond to requests for comment.

HO YIN AU

## Junot Diaz, MacArthur Grant winner

*Writing professor wins  
prize for talent in fiction*

By **Kath Xu**

STAFF REPORTER

Often overshadowed by its engineering and science counterparts, the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) at MIT has been called the "hidden jewel" of the Institute. Now, the SHASS has one more award to add to its list of accolades. On Oct. 2, the MacArthur Foundation announced that it had selected MIT professor Junot Diaz to receive a MacArthur Fellowship for his outstanding talent in fiction writing. The foundation awards about 20 so-called "Genius Grants" each year, which each come with \$500,000 of no-strings-attached prize money in installments over five years.

In an email interview with *The Tech*, Junot Diaz stated that the prestigious award essentially meant two things for him. "It's a tremendous honor for my community, which is never honored enough," he said, referring to the Latino-American community in which he grew up. "And for five years

Diaz, Page 13

### IN SHORT

Add date is today! Make sure you get your forms in by 5 p.m.!

**The UA Fall Festival comedy show is today at 8 p.m. in La Sala Puerto Rico.** See comedians Michael Ian Black and Hannibal Buress! \$10 for MIT students, tickets are available at the door.

**The second forum hosted by the Presidential Transition Advisory Cabinet is Wed., Oct. 10 from 5 - 7 p.m. in 32-144.** They want student input, go be heard!

**Senior portraits for the Technique are next week!** Monday - Friday in W20-451. Check your email for further details.

**Balfour will be on campus Wed. and Thurs. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** for all of your brass rat servicing needs.

**Splash teacher registration has been extended to Tues. October 8.** Check <http://esp.mit.edu> for more details.

**Memorial Drive will be closed from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Mon.** due to the Tufts 10K road race.

**Startup bootcamp**, a free event featuring talks by a number of startup founders, begins Oct. 8 at 9 a.m.

**The Tech will not publish this coming Tuesday due to the Columbus Day holiday.** Classes resume on Wednesday. Enjoy the long weekend!

**Send news information and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).**

## Do students care about the election? MIT students talk about why their peers should care about politics

By **Austin Hess**

STAFF REPORTER

With just a month to go before the presidential election on November 6, MIT students are all talking politics. Or are they? In light of the first presidential debate, how do students feel about voting, elections, and politics in general this year?

On Wednesday night, students gathered in various places across campus to watch the first round of the presidential debate. The Forum, an MIT student group that facilitates discussions of political issues, sponsored one viewing event in the Stata Center. Before the debate, the organizers informally polled the attendees. Of the forty people there, a solid majority identified as being Obama supporters, while only two sided with Romney. When asked for what they were hoping to learn from the domestic policy-focused debate, common responses included finding out more details about Romney's policies and changes Obama would make to his economic approach if reelected. Additionally, almost everyone in the room answered that they were registered and planning to vote. Students believed this high level of interest may have been due to the self-selecting nature of a group watching a political debate.

### Why should MIT students care about politics?

"Freshmen come to MIT hoping to change the world, and to do that we need to understand what's going on," Naren P. Tallapragada '13 said. "Politics is the art of convincing

people that your great idea is the one worth following."

Indeed, many believe that MIT students should care about politics. According to Caroline B. Shinkle '15, leader of the MIT College Republicans, "MIT students do care about politics. However, the rigor of the MIT experience makes it less likely for mass student activism on

campus."

"Even though politics may not always be at the top of the mind, MIT students in general are tuned into the key issues and are more than willing to share their opinions," she said. Shinkle suggested that students should care because "Most students are focused on forging a successful career after MIT or graduate school.

They know that without a vibrant economy their chances of success are severely diminished. It comes down to which candidate has the vision, the background, and the plan to create that kind of environment."

While those in politically oriented clubs have a strong political

Politics, Page 12



EMILY KELLISON-LINN—THE TECH  
**Students prepare to watch the presidential debate on Wednesday night in the Stata Center** during an event hosted by The Forum, MIT's political discussion group, in collaboration with MIT College Democrats and MIT College Republicans. Members of The Forum led discussions before and after the debate.

### A VISION FOR EDX?

MIT's online learning venture lacks a key vision, and the process to achieve one.

**EDITORIAL, p. 4**

### CHILDCARE AT MIT

Grad students and postdocs need daycare spots too. **OPINION, p. 5**

### HUMILITY

A response to the arrogance of freshmen. **OPINION, p. 4**



### NFL PREDICTIONS

What's going on during week five?

**SPORTS, p. 16**

### TRIAL OF THE CLONE

Zach Weinersmith's new choose your own adventure book!  
**ARTS, p. 14**

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## Dark days for Israel's media

JERUSALEM — The mainstream newspaper Maariv is on the verge of closing, apparently having lost a fierce 64-year contest against the populist Hebrew tabloid Yediot Aharonot. On Thursday, Haaretz, the flagship broadsheet of Israel's left-wing intelligentsia, was not published for the first time in three decades; the newsroom held a one-day strike to protest the planned layoff of scores of employees.

Israel's print media are in crisis, squeezed by both the global pressures of the digital age and a small, crowded Hebrew-language market that is undergoing convulsions of its own. Channel 10, one of Israel's two commercial television stations, also hangs precariously, waiting to be salvaged either by the government or by investment from abroad.

Media experts here speak of an ominous trend: a once-diverse news bazaar that is becoming more concentrated and prone to political influence. In particular, they say, the economics of the print media have been skewed by the arrival five years ago of Israel Hayom, a free national newspaper owned by Sheldon Adelson, a conservative U.S. billionaire who is a staunch supporter of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Israel Hayom, viewed as pro-Netanyahu, now claims the widest distribution of any Hebrew newspaper on weekdays. Public television and radio have also come under tighter state control.

—Isabel Kershner, *The New York Times*

## Facebook tops one billion active users

Facebook on Thursday announced that it had topped one billion active users, meaning users who visited the site within a month. Although a few companies can claim to have had more than a billion customers, Facebook is the first social network to hit that number.

Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive and founder, made the announcement in a blog post on the company's website.

"If you're reading this: thank you for giving me and my little team the honor of serving you," Zuckerberg wrote. "Helping a billion people connect is amazing, humbling and by far the thing I am most proud of in my life."

Facebook shared some information on what its billion users have been doing on the site. People have used the "Like" button more than 1.1 trillion times since it was added in February 2009. There have been more than 140 billion friend connections.

—Nick Bilton, *The New York Times*

## South Dakota tribe considers lifting alcohol ban

The Oglala Sioux Tribe will propose lifting an alcohol ban on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota as a way to regulate the flow of alcohol onto the reservation, which has been plagued by alcohol problems for years, officials said Thursday.

Pine Ridge is a dry reservation where tribal members can be arrested if the police even suspect drunkenness, like slurred speech or a wobbly gait. The reservation has disproportionately high rates of health and crime problems related to drinking.

This week, a federal court judge in Nebraska dismissed the tribe's \$500 million lawsuit against beer dealers in the neighboring town of Whiteclay, Neb., where four stores sell some 13,000 cans of beer and malt liquor each day, almost all of it to residents of Pine Ridge. Whiteclay has a population of about 10 people, while Pine Ridge has 45,000.

James Big Boy, chairman of the Oglala Sioux's Law and Order Committee, said he planned to submit a proposal to the tribal council during the next few weeks calling for a public vote on whether to permit alcohol sales on Pine Ridge. It is unlikely, however, that a referendum could be held before scheduled tribal elections in November.

—Timothy Williams, *The New York Times*

### WEATHER

## Warmth today/tomorrow before temps drop Sunday

By Allison A. Wing  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Autumn weather is often characterized by large swings in temperature from one day to the next, and this weekend will be no exception. After several days of cloudy, drizzly conditions, today will be warm and dry, with highs reaching into the upper 70°F's. With southerly warm air advection, 80°F is not beyond the realm of possibility. The warm temperatures will persist tomorrow before a cold front that is trailing a low in Canada moves through tomorrow night. There is a chance of showers tomorrow afternoon/evening, but the main effect of the front will be to drop the temperatures. Indeed, Sunday's high is expected to be quite a bit chillier, only reaching the mid 50°F's. An intensifying low moving up the coast will bring widespread rainfall on Sunday afternoon and evening. Clear skies should rebound for the holiday on Monday, but with cooler than normal temperatures.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Partly cloudy. High 78°F (26°C). Winds calm before becoming southerly at 5-7 mph.  
**Tonight:** Mostly clear. Low 60°F (16°C). Winds from the southwest at 5-7 mph.  
**Tomorrow:** Partly sunny with a chance of showers in the afternoon. High 76°F (24°C). Low 47°F (8°C). Winds from the southwest at 10-15 mph, gusting to 25 mph.  
**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy with rain likely in the early evening. High 57°F (14°C). Low 43°F (6°C). Winds from the north at 5-10 mph.

# After debate, a harsh light falls on a moderator

By Brian Stelter  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The new format for the presidential debate prompted plenty of partisan debate online — as did the performance of the moderator, Jim Lehrer.

Lehrer's light touch was widely criticized during and after the debate Wednesday night, particularly by Democrats who felt that President Barack Obama's Republican challenger, Mitt Romney, effectively moderated the debate himself. Speaking to CNN after the debate, Stephanie Cutter, Obama's deputy campaign manager, said, "I sometimes wondered if we even needed a moderator because we had Mitt Romney. We should rethink that for the next debate."

But conservatives suggested that critiques of Lehrer were just excuses for Obama's poor performance.

Lehrer, 78, the former anchor of the "NewsHour" on PBS, moderated 11 presidential debates between 1988 and 2008. He had sworn off moderating future de-

bates until the Commission on Presidential Debates convinced him to come back this year.

He said he was persuaded by the potential of the new format: It allowed for six 15-minute conversations, each starting with a question and two-minute answers from each candidate. The format was appealing to Lehrer, who has consistently said that his job as moderator is to get out of the way and get the candidates talking.

He succeeded in getting out of the candidates' way in Wednesday night's debate, and when he did speak, it was often in phrases like, "excuse me," "wait" and "please." Throughout the evening, he strained to interrupt when the candidates went over their allotted time. And at one point he faced a testy Obama, who complained that the moderator had cut him off by saying that time was up.

"I had five seconds before you interrupted me," Obama said.

At other times, both candidates seemed to completely ignore Lehrer. When Obama criticized Rom-

ney as failing to provide more specifics about his economic plans, Romney insisted on responding.

"No, but," Lehrer said as Romney kept on going. He spoke for a minute, completing his entire thought without interruption from the moderator.

Because the first five topic areas took up more than 15 minutes each, the candidates had only three minutes to talk about the sixth topic, cures for partisan gridlock in Washington.

In an email, Lehrer said he thought the new format accomplished its purpose, "which was to facilitate direct, extended exchanges between the candidates about issues of substance." He continued, "Part of my moderator mission was to stay out of the way of the flow, and I had no problems with doing so. My only real personal frustration was discovering that 90 minutes was not enough time in that more open format to cover every issue that deserved attention."

The critiques came from several sides of the media spectrum.

## Iranian officials offer plan to end nuclear crisis

By David E. Sanger  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — With harsh economic sanctions contributing to the first major protests in Iran in three years, Iranian officials have begun to describe what they call a "nine-step plan" to defuse the nuclear crisis with the West, by gradually suspending the production of the uranium that would be easiest for them to convert into a nuclear weapon.

But the plan requires so many concessions by the West, starting with the dismantling of all the sanctions that are blocking oil sales and setting off the collapse of the Iranian currency, that U.S. officials have dismissed it as unworkable. Nonetheless, Iranian officials used their visit to the United Nations last week to attempt to drum up support, indicating that the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is

finally feeling the pressure.

"Within the intelligence community, I think it's fair to say that there is split opinion about whether the upper level of the regime is getting seriously worried," one senior intelligence official said when asked why the Iranians appeared to be backing away from their earlier stand that nothing would stop them from producing more medium-enriched uranium, which can be turned into bomb fuel in a matter of months.

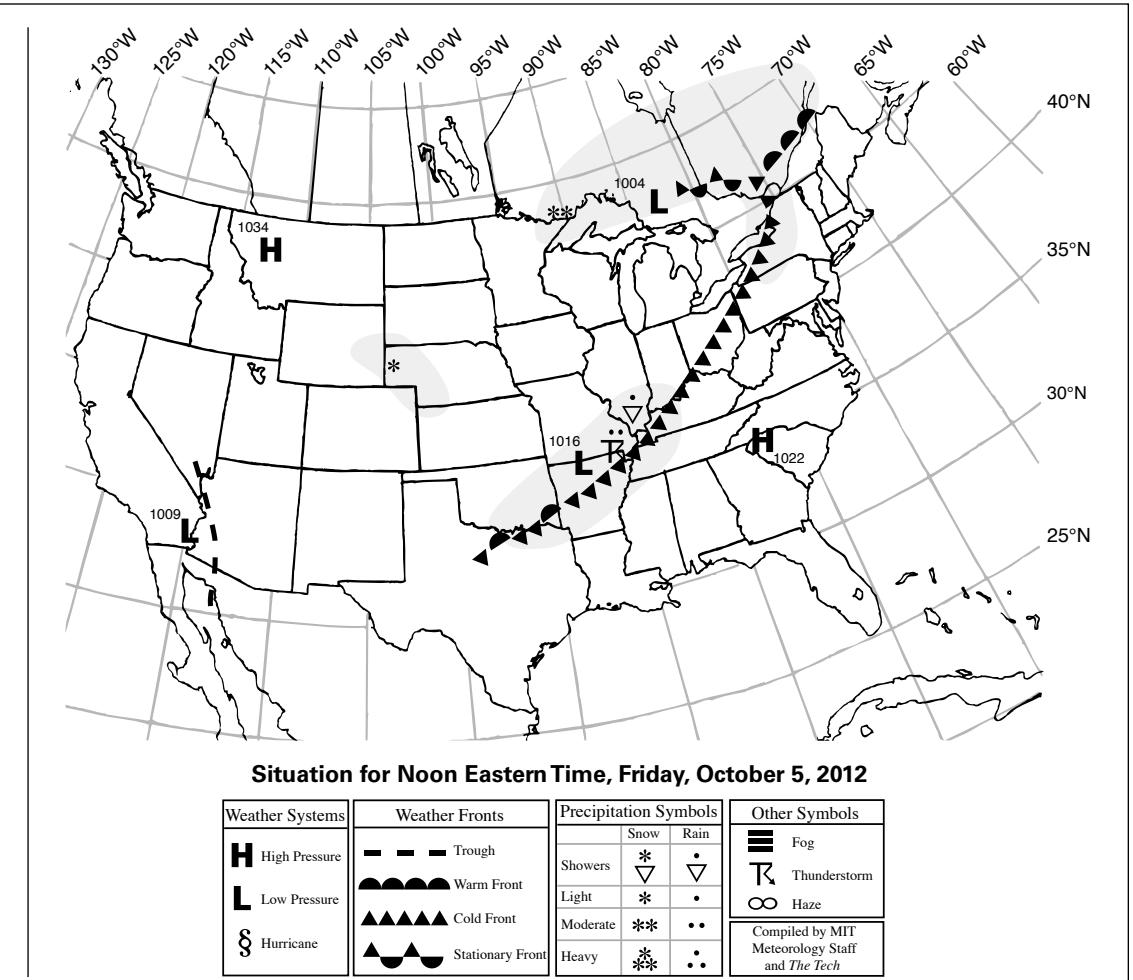
"He's erratic, and we've seen him walk up to the edge of deals before and walk away," the official said, referring to Khamenei.

The Iranian plan is based on a proposal made to European officials in July. It essentially calls for step-by-step dismantling of the sanctions, while the Iranians end work at one of two sites where they are enriching what is known as "20 percent uranium." Only when the

Iranians reach step No. 9 — after all the sanctions are gone and badly depressed oil revenues have begun to flow again — would there be a "suspension" of the medium-enriched uranium production at the deep underground site called Fordow.

Obama administration officials say the deal is intended to generate headlines, but would not guarantee that Iran cannot produce a weapon.

"The way they have structured it, you can move the fuel around, and it stays inside the country," a senior Obama administration official said. "They could restart the program in a nanosecond. They don't have to answer any questions from the inspectors" about evidence that they conducted research on nuclear weapons technology, but nonetheless would insist on a statement from the agency that all issues have been resolved.



# Karzai accuses US of duplicity in fighting Afghan enemies

By Alissa J. Rubin  
and Habib Zahori  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, on Thursday accused the United States of playing a “double game” by fighting a war against Afghan insurgents rather than their backers in Pakistan, and by refusing to supply his country with the weapons it needs to fight enemies across the border. He threatened to turn to China, India and Russia for those arms.

He also accused the Western news media of trying to undermine the confidence of the Afghan people by publishing articles suggesting that a civil war and economic collapse might follow the departure of NATO troops at the end of 2014. However, he also promised, using his strongest words to date, that he would step down from the presidency and that there would be an election.

“No circumstance, no foreign propaganda or intervention and no insecurity can prevent the election from happening,” Karzai said at a

news conference. It was the second time in recent days that Karzai had sounded angry and resentful over the policies of his U.S. partners, and his comments Thursday were among his most pointedly critical in recent years, Afghan analysts said, suggesting that the always rocky relationship between the two countries is hitting a new low. Karzai touched on a number of similar points in an interview with the CBS program “60 Minutes” on Sunday.

“NATO and Afghanistan should fight this war where terrorism stems from,” Karzai said Thursday, alluding to the safe havens in Pakistan where the Taliban take refuge. “But the United States is not ready to go and fight the terrorists there. This shows a double game. They say one thing and do something else.”

“If this war is against insurgency, then it is an Afghan and internal issue, then why are you here? Let us take care of it.

“But if you are here to fight terrorism, then you should go to where their safe havens are and where terrorism is financed and manufactured,” he said.

He also expressed frustration about the lack of sophisticated weapons from NATO countries, saying, “Are we going to wait and do nothing, or should we buy them from Russia, China, India or other countries?”

The relationship between Afghanistan and the U.S. has been on a downward slide since midsummer shortly after a conference in Tokyo at which Western countries pledged \$16 billion to support Afghanistan through 2015.

In August, a tense and unpleasant row began between the two countries over the terms for handing over Afghan prisoners at the U.S.-run detention facility in Parwan. With most prisoners handed over, the U.S. halted the remaining transfers in September after indications that the Afghans might release some of the most dangerous ones. The Afghans were furious and charged the U.S. with breaking the terms of a memorandum of understanding on the hand-over. It took a lengthy phone call by President Barack Obama to Karzai to get discussions back on track.

# Fed members in accord on bond buying, minutes show

By Annie Lowrey  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Policymakers at the Federal Reserve were nearly united last month in their belief that the economic recovery needed additional help and that the central bank had the ability to provide it, according to the official account of the meeting released Thursday.

“All members but one agreed that the outlook for economic activity and inflation called for additional monetary accommodation,” read the minutes of the September meeting, and participants were particularly concerned about the high unemployment rate.

The minutes, which summarize the discussions at the Fed’s top policymaking meeting, are routinely released three weeks after the meeting’s end.

At the last meeting, held Sept. 12-13, the Fed announced a major

round of asset purchases aimed at stimulating the economy and pulling down the stubbornly high unemployment rate, which has ranged from 8.1 to 8.3 percent this year.

In their discussions leading up to the decision, many at the meeting noted the uncertainty surrounding the economy, given the risks posed by the continuing debt crisis in Western Europe and the major tax increases and spending cuts due to hit next year in the United States. And “a number of participants” expressed uncertainty about the impact the new Fed program might have and how it might complicate monetary policy in the future.

Thus, the Fed minutes said the committee adopted a “flexible approach” that would allow the Fed “to tailor its policy response over time.”

Many Federal Reserve officials indicated that they would also support providing more explicit

guidance on interest rate policies. The Fed intends to keep short-term interest rates near zero at least until mid-2015.

But the minutes said that “many” officials suggested tying the guidance to economic benchmarks, like the unemployment rate, rather than to the calendar.

“A change in the calendar date might be interpreted pessimistically as a downgrade of the committee’s economic outlook rather than as conveying the committee’s determination to support the economic recovery,” some participants noted, according to the minutes.

Moreover, using economic data rather than a specific date might allow financial markets to adjust their expectations of Federal Reserve policy more fluidly.

Still, Fed officials indicated that choosing an economic benchmark might be difficult, implying that the policy change would not be an imminent one.

# New Boston busing debate, four decades after fervid clashes

BOSTON — Nearly four decades after this city was convulsed by violence over court-ordered busing to desegregate its public schools, Boston is working to reduce its reliance on busing in a school system that is now made up largely of minority students.

Although court-ordered busing ended more than two decades ago, and only 13 percent of students in the public schools today are white, the school district buses 64 percent of its students in kindergarten through eighth grade to schools outside their immediate neighborhoods. The city has tried twice in the last decade to change the system and failed both times.

“Children are being bused now because they have been bused for 40 years and no one has had the political courage to dismantle it,” said Lawrence DiCara, a former Boston city councilor who supported busing in the 1970s and is writing a book about the city in that era. “Now, there are no white kids to be integrated. Everyone is being randomly bused. It doesn’t make sense.”

—Katharine Q. Seelye, *The New York Times*

# Los Angeles police to revise immigrant detention policy

LOS ANGELES — The police here will soon stop turning over illegal immigrants arrested for low-level crimes to federal immigration officials for deportation, Police Chief Charlie Beck announced Thursday.

At a news conference, Beck said he hoped to put in place protocols by the start of next year, under which the Los Angeles police will no longer honor requests from federal agencies to detain illegal immigrants who are arrested for nonviolent offenses like driving without a license, illegal vending or being drunk in public unless they were part of a street gang or had a criminal record.

The announcement was the biggest and potentially most controversial step yet for Beck, who has been in his post since 2009, into the highly politicized waters of immigration enforcement. Under Secure Communities, a federal program that began in 2008, local law enforcement agencies share with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials the fingerprints of everyone they arrest.

But Beck said the program had impeded efforts to keep the city safe by eroding trust between the Police Department and the communities in Los Angeles.

“Community trust is extremely important to effective policing,” he said. “So it’s my intent, by issuing this change in procedures, that we gain this trust back.”

—Ian Lovett, *The New York Times*

# Global food prices on the rise, UN says

WASHINGTON — Global prices for meats, dairy products and cereals resumed rising last month, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported Thursday, adding to concerns that developing countries may face food shortages.

The agency said that on average, prices rose 1.4 percent in September, after remaining steady in July and August. Scorching heat and drought in the United States, Russia and Europe constricted agricultural production and pushed up prices of corn and soybeans to record highs, the report said.

The largest increases were for dairy products, which rose 7 percent in September, their sharpest climb since January 2011. Higher feed costs were a major factor in the increase, and also helped to drive meat prices up 2.1 percent, especially in the “grain intensive” pork and poultry industries, the report said.

Cereal prices rose 1 percent, and the food agency forecast a decline in global cereal production this year.

Despite the recent price increases, the agency’s overall food price index, which measures monthly price changes for a basket of goods including cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, remains below the levels it reached in 2011, when high food prices led to unrest in the Middle East and northern Africa. But the index is close to its levels of 2008, when food costs set off riots in several countries.

—Ron Nixon, *The New York Times*

# Philippine ex-president is arrested in hospital

MANILA, Philippines — Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines was arrested Thursday on corruption charges related to allegations of misuse of \$8.8 million in state lottery funds during her administration.

Arroyo, who is now a member of the Philippine Congress, checked herself into a government medical facility after the warrant was issued and shortly before it was served. Police officials said she was arrested while in a hospital bed. It was unclear whether she would be transferred to a jail cell later.

“Congresswoman Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is now under arrest and in detention, under the custody of the Philippine National Police,” Senior Superintendent Joel Coronel said after the warrant was served.

Coronel said Arroyo was suffering from dehydration and hypertension. She was in the same hospital suite where she spent about eight months under detention on separate charges of rigging an election before her release in July after a judge found evidence against her to be weak.

Arroyo is under investigation in connection with a variety of corruption offenses said to have been committed during her time as president, from 2001 to 2010. Additional charges are expected to be filed in the coming months. She has maintained that she is innocent of all allegations against her.

The new charges are related to accusations that Arroyo and members of her administration repeatedly stole money from the national lottery between 2008 and 2010.

The prosecution of Arroyo is a cornerstone of the anti-corruption campaign of her successor, President Benigno S. Aquino III. A presidential spokesman said Thursday that the case was in the hands of the courts and declined to discuss the matter in detail.

—Floyd Whaley, *The New York Times*

# Anxiety rises as Iranian currency falls by 40 percent

By Thomas Erdbrink  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, Iran — For months, since the imposition of harsh, U.S.-led sanctions over Iran’s nuclear program, the country’s leaders have sworn they would never succumb to Western pressures, and they scoffed at the idea that the measures were having any serious impact. But after a week in which the Iranian currency, the rial, fell by a shocking 40 percent and protests began to rumble through the capital, no one is making light of the mounting costs of confrontation.

In the Iranian capital, all anyone can talk about is the rial, and how lives have been turned upside down in one terrible week. Every elevator ride, office visit, or quick run to the supermarket brings new gossip about the currency’s drop and a swirl of speculation about who is to blame.

“Better buy now,” one rice seller

advised Abbas Sharabi, a retired factory guard, who had decided to buy 900 pounds of Iran’s most basic staple in order to feed his extended family for a year.

“As I was gathering my money, the man received a phone call,” said Sharabi, smoking a cigarette after a cigarette on Thursday while waiting for a bus. “When he hung up he told me prices had just gone up by 10 percent. Of course I paid. God knows how much it will cost tomorrow.”

While only a few people actually need to exchange the rial for foreign currency, its value is one of the few clear indicators of the state of the economy, and its fall has sharply raised the prices of most staples.

In Tehran, many residents spend their days calling on money changers and visiting banks, deliberating whether to sell their rials now or wait for a miracle that would restore the rates to old levels, or for even a modest rally from the panic-driven lows of the last week.

“The fluctuations are so large that nobody knows whether it is better to wait or to change now,” said Ahmad, 65, as he shared a taxi to the west Tehran neighborhood of Sadeghiyeh.

“I am so fed up,” said Ahmad, a garment seller, who like others here did not want to be identified by his full name for fear of retribution from the authorities. “I want to have a normal life, but from breakfast, to lunch to dinner, everybody only nervously talks of hard currency.”

Like many residents of the capital, Ahmad had tuned in to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s news conference on Tuesday, hoping that he would offer some sort of solution.

Instead, Ahmadinejad attributed most of the rial’s weakness to currency speculators and the sanctions, saying that it is only natural that the currency should suffer when it is possible to sell oil only in small quantities and when it is hard to make international bank transfers.

WORLD & NATION



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## EDITORIAL

## EdX needs vision

EdX, MIT's online learning platform, has a lot of things going for it.

EdX has powerful institutional backers: first MIT and Harvard, and later Berkeley. EdX has a lot of money: \$30 million each from the founding partners. EdX has a lot of users: over 150,000 registered for its first course, over 7,000 of whom successfully completed it. But EdX lacks something vital, without which it will fail in its stated mission to improve residential education at MIT: EdX lacks a clear vision.

Let's put aside "educating the world" for now. Free, MIT-caliber online education for anybody with an Internet connection is a great goal, but it's separate from President L. Rafael Reif's intent to "integrate online technologies into the campus experience" with the purpose of offering his students the best residential education. It is this idea — that MIT can use EdX to improve education right here on the north bank of the Charles — that deserves very careful scrutiny.

To put it more concretely: What will a successful implementation of EdX actually look like? And what do we mean by "successful"? In a *Wall Street Journal* column this week, Reif said EdX could essentially "flip the classroom" — that is, students do more mechanical learning online (like listening to lectures and answering quiz questions), and come to class to synthesize and analyze that material under the expert guidance of a faculty member.

Problem is, the details stop there and we have not seen serious, sustained efforts on MIT's part to rally faculty around a process which sets standards for success and a clear vision for what will happen in the "flipped classroom."

Do the faculty resources even exist to support "meaningful back-and-forth exchanges" between students and professors, assuming lecture-learning happens at home on a laptop? Do we have the necessary educational spaces and equipment to support substantially richer in-class learning? And as was raised in last month's *MIT Faculty Newsletter*, how do humanities fit into the equation when EdX feels so tailored to science/engineering courses?

**EdX is an opportunity to take a fresh look at how we've been educating and to consider what we want to change.**

On top of that, the verdict is still out on what's good and bad about the traditional college education model. It's not easy to evaluate what teaching techniques work and which just waste everybody's time, nor is it easy to evaluate how well MIT currently educates. (Do we measure success by average income

of our graduates? The number accepted to top graduate programs? Self-reported satisfaction measures?)

EdX is an opportunity to take a fresh look at how we've been educating and to consider what we want to change. We should come in with few assumptions, because it just may be that — were we to take a closer look — we'd find that the way we're teaching today is not accomplishing what we want to, and much should be thrown out with the dawn of digital education.

To be fair, EdX backers have long said that the online learning platform is in large part a giant research project, designed to discover the pedagogy that works best according to some (unspecified) educational benchmarks. This is a great approach, but it's high time we — or at the very least, MIT faculty — start seeing more specifics: data collected from the 6.002x pilot, proposed avenues for future pedagogical development, and standards by which we can know EdX is working. And EdX officials should take the time to respond publicly to critiques of EdX made in the *Faculty Newsletter*.

A final point: We do believe technology like EdX can improve residential education. And the work that has been done so far is impressive. But EdX's promise of exceptional impact deserves exceptional review — from students, faculty, and MIT Corporation members alike. Let's revolutionize education together.

## GUEST COLUMN

## The solution to arrogance: humility

*Leave behind the resume-building attitude*

By Daniel Wendel

While I agree with the spirit and overall theme of Feras Saad's article, "The arrogance of freshmen" (i.e. that taking advantage of opportunities at MIT is more important than the fact that you got in here), several sentences had a tone that belied another form of arrogance. The worst was, "... taking four classes a semester and getting A's ... is not much to brag about, but taking the initiative to research with professors or intern in industry certainly is," followed closely by, "One can take four classes a semester and cruise through an MIT degree by junior year."

While it is true that many MIT students have a strong enough high school background to finish a degree in three years, and many also have the ability to get all A's if taking "only" four classes, this is not true for everyone. Several of the large freshman classes have curves centered at B+, meaning that a full 50 percent of the class will receive a B or worse! I and most of my close friends at MIT struggled in at least one class during our MIT careers. In my case, I was elated when I saw that Prof. Winston had given me B in 6.034, up from the C I would have gotten if not for his willingness to forgive a terrible prior exam grade if I was able to demonstrate knowledge of the material

on the final. In fact, my entire Course 6 GPA was only barely high enough to qualify for the M.Eng program, and I never took more than 54 units and only began UROPing my senior year. To make matters worse, the dean of admissions who admitted my class was later shown to be a fraud, causing many of my classmates to wonder if we were simply here by way of an oversight! So I know what it feels like to wonder if you're up to the MIT challenge.

**Don't stress over your GPA, your course load, or how many UROPs or job offers you have.**

Of course, I'm not comparing myself to today's freshmen, who seem to be smarter and more capable every year. But to those who are taking only three or four classes and are still struggling, I just want to say: you are doing fine. Some of your friends may be getting all A's, holding multiple simultaneous UROP positions, and chastising you for "wasting this opportunity" or some similar baloney, but don't listen to them. I mean, I agree that you shouldn't waste this opportunity by focusing on letter grades, but piling on more commitments and higher expectations is not the way to go. Part of

maturity, which is guided by humility, is being okay with who you are and what you are capable of, and then doing a few things well rather than overloading on "opportunities" in order to pad your resume.

Yes, push yourself and venture outside your comfort zone. Try something new. Try something you will fail at! But leave behind the resume-building attitude that says you must do everything and seize every possible opportunity in order to get into college. You're here. You belong here. But you are not the most capable person here. So don't stress over your GPA, your course load, or how many UROPs or job offers you have. If taking three classes a semester and working hard to overcome testing anxiety to get all B's leaves you truly understanding subject material you care about, you will have done better for yourself when you graduate in five years than that other guy we all know who is graduating in three years with a 5.0, two majors, three recommendations from UROP professors, and absolutely no idea how to do anything except "succeed" at any metric set up for him by anyone other than himself.

Or at least I hope that's true, or I'm about one year, one major, .5 average grade points, and two UROPs behind.

*Daniel Wendel is a research associate in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.*

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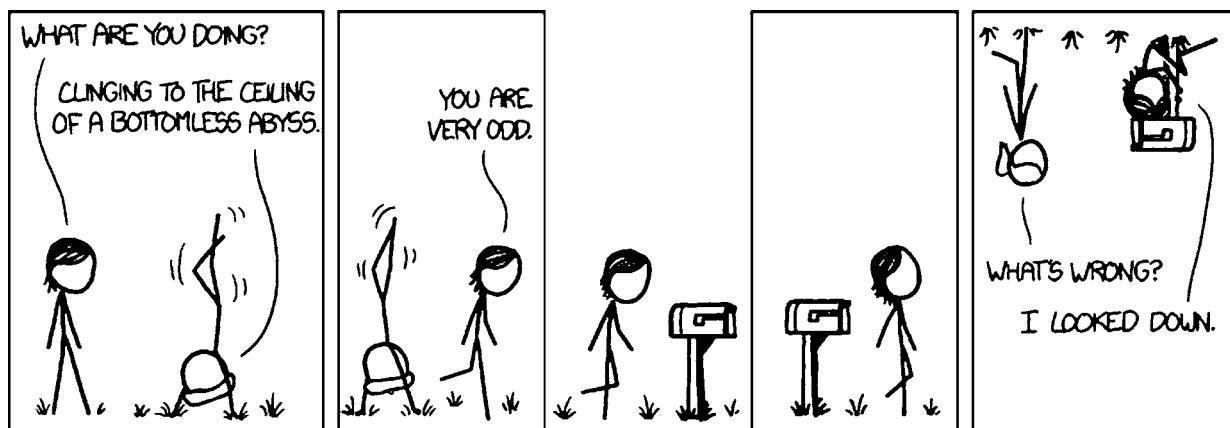




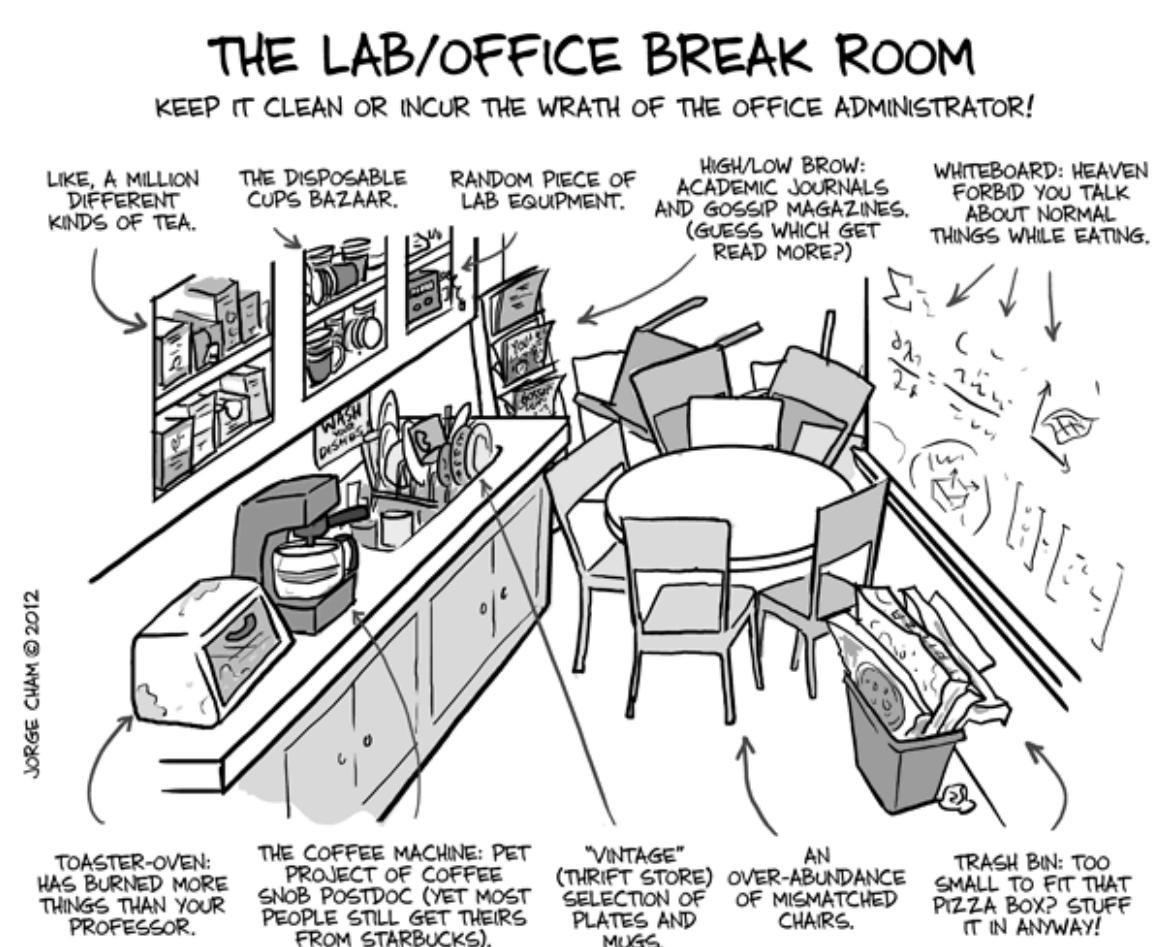
# Uppercut by Steven Sullivan



[1115] Sky



I dropped a bird and I didn't hear it hit bottom.



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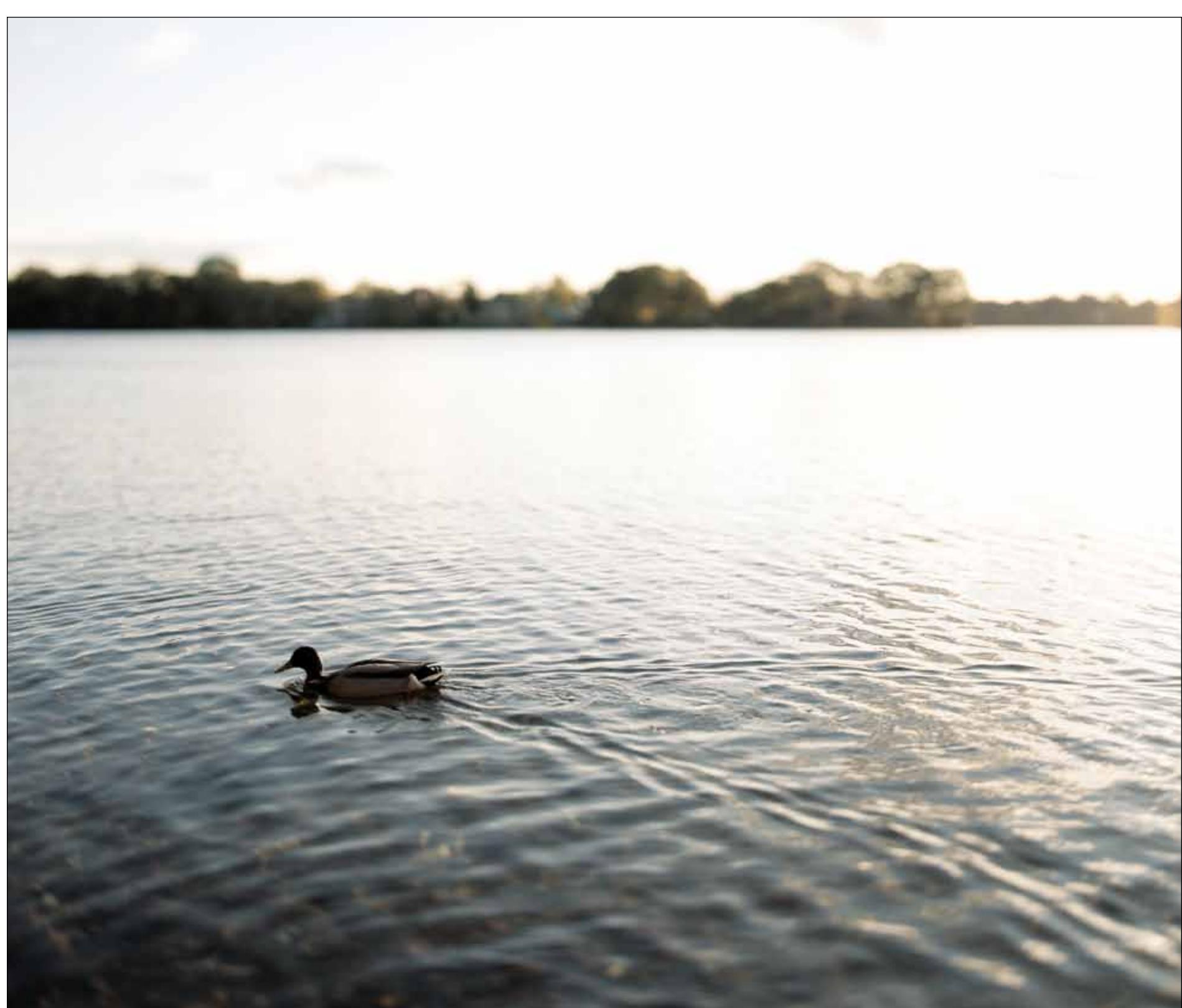
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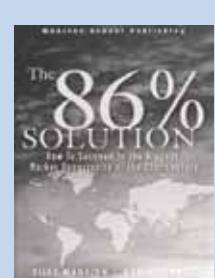


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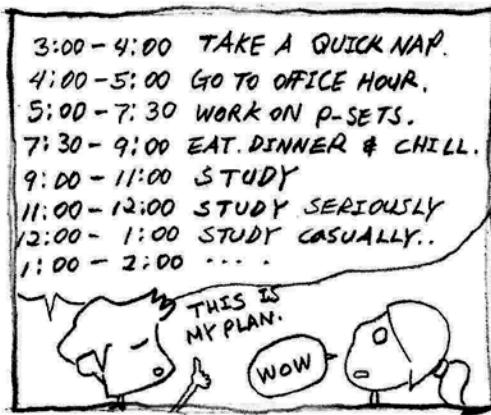
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# SKETCHY

by Dohyun Lee

## TODAY'S PLAN



# Sudoku

### Solution, page 12

A partially filled 9x9 Sudoku grid. The visible numbers are:

		8	3					7
				5		1	8	
	4	7	2			3		
	8		4					2
		4	8		3	7		
7					9		4	
		2			5	6	1	
	1	6		8				
4					6	9		

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

# Techdoku

## Solution, page 12

20x	180x			24x
		24x	15x	
18x	2			6
	2÷		20x	
60x	22+			1-
2	3			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# At The Table by Bruce Venzke

Solution, page 12

## ACROSS

- 1 Gallic word of gratitude
- 6 "Ornery" guy
- 10 Dolphin family member
- 14 Mythical hunter
- 15 Aware of
- 16 When shadows are shortest
- 17 Missile holders
- 18 Bank guarantor
- 19 Get tired
- 20 Telltale sign
- 21 Warehouse machines
- 23 Except for
- 25 Most distressed
- 26 Bobby Darin tune
- 31 Banks (on)
- 32 Possible babysitter
- 33 Seek clarification
- 36 OPEC member
- 37 Some auction offerings
- 38 Pay-stub acronym
- 39 Soak
- 40 Wind-powered toy
- 42 Applied, as flattery

## 44 Radar gun target

46 Ambulatory	11 Pocahontas' hubby
49 Big brute	12 Covers thickly
50 Long-beaked wading bird	13 Extreme unease
53 Released for home viewing	22 Converted attic space
57 Subsequent	24 TiVo precursor
58 Encircled by	26 MD's orders
59 Draft depositor	27 Prefix in aviation
60 Author Harte	28 Reward the cast
61 Long look	29 Dinesen's real first name
62 Last Greek letter	30 Aficionado
63 "Mi __ es su . . ."	33 Verdi masterpiece
64 Lion King villain	34 Person from Paisley
65 Auto type	35 Batman creator
 <b>DOWN</b>	37 Eroded
1 Forest growth	38 Data identifier
2 Google exec Schmidt	40 Ceramist's equipment
3 Churn up	41 Swelling reducers
4 Crockett's cap material	42 Relay race segment
5 Ordain	43 Well-chosen
6 Brazilian export	44 Joe Jackson in Field of Dreams
7 Cancel	45 Welder's adhesive
8 Move slightly	46 Hardball network
9 Closes due to fog	47 33 Down, for instance

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered entries. The grid consists of a 13x13 grid of squares. Some squares are blacked out, forming a pattern of shaded cells. The numbered entries are as follows:

- 1: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
- 14: (across)
- 15: (down)
- 16: (across)
- 17: (across)
- 18: (down)
- 19: (across)
- 20: (across)
- 21: (down)
- 22: (across)
- 23: (across)
- 24: (down)
- 25: (across)
- 26: 27, 28
- 29: (down)
- 30: (across)
- 31: (across)
- 32: (down)
- 33: (across)
- 34: (down)
- 35: (across)
- 36: (across)
- 37: (down)
- 38: (across)
- 39: (across)
- 40: (down)
- 41: (across)
- 42: (down)
- 43: (across)
- 44: (across)
- 45: (down)
- 46: 47, 48
- 49: (across)
- 50: (across)
- 51: (down)
- 52: (across)
- 53: (across)
- 54: (down)
- 55: (across)
- 56: (down)
- 57: (across)
- 58: (down)
- 59: (across)
- 60: (across)
- 61: (down)
- 62: (across)
- 63: (across)
- 64: (down)
- 65: (across)

- 48 Movers' supply
- 51 All-in-one computer
- 52 Entertainer Minnelli

- 54 Turned blue, perhaps
- 55 Star in Lyra
- 56 Senior member

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### Solution to Crossword

S	I	R	I	S	P	S	F	O	S	S
O	V	E	N	E	A	M	W	A	Y	
B	A	I	T	F	E	T	I	N	A	N
E	N	G	A	E	M	E	T	R	I	N
R	A	N	C	O	R	D	E	W		
	T	E	N	N	I	S	R	A	C	K
D	A	Y	S	O	O	N	M	Y	H	E
A	L	E	S	W	T	S	I	N	T	
M	A	L	I	B	U	R	O	T	S	O
E	S	P	R	E	S	S	H	O	T	
A	S	P	R	E	S	S	H	O	T	

### Solution to Techdoku

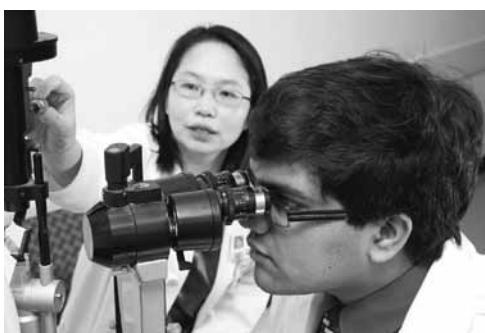
4	6	5	1	2	3
5	1	6	2	3	4
1	3	2	4	5	6
6	2	1	3	4	5
3	5	4	6	1	2
2	4	3	5	6	1

### Solution to Sudoku

1	6	8	3	9	4	2	5	7
9	2	3	6	5	7	1	8	4
5	4	7	2	1	8	3	6	9
6	8	9	4	7	1	5	3	2
2	5	4	8	6	3	7	9	1
7	3	1	5	2	9	8	4	6
8	9	2	7	4	5	6	1	3
3	1	6	9	8	2	4	7	5
4	7	5	1	3	6	9	2	8

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# Writing professor wins 'Genius Grant'

*Junot Diaz newest MacArthur fellow*

**DIAZ, from Page 1**

[the award represents] the freedom to write, which for someone with a full-time job is no small thing."

The MacArthur Fellowship places heavy emphasis on creativity in selecting recipients. Individuals must be nominated for this award in order to be considered. According to the MacArthur Foundation website, the monetary award is meant to allow its recipients to pursue their ideas freely when they otherwise might not have that luxury.

Junot Diaz is currently the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing in Writing and Humanistic Studies. His published works include an anthology of short stories called *Drown* (1996) and a novel titled *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007). Diaz read an excerpt from his most recent collection of stories, *This Is How You Lose Her*, in the Stata Center on Sept. 27.

This isn't the first time Diaz has won a major award. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2008, and appeared on many best-seller lists.

Still, Diaz said that he "never imagined winning a MacArthur."

"My imagination doesn't run in that direction," said Diaz. "When I was told, it was like one of those little BASIC programs we used to mess with when we were kids."

10 Stunned  
20 Go to 10

RUN"

Junot Diaz was born in the Dominican Republic, but grew up in New Jersey. In his works, he often

likes to explore the challenges facing an immigrant in a new country, drawing upon his own experiences. Yunior, a character who often recurs in his works, is a Dominican-American who is also from New Jersey.

"I grew up wanting always to be in books and later, when I was a teenager, wanting to be an artist," said Diaz. "Only natural I'd become a writer, given those preconditions."

Before joining the faculty at MIT, he received his B.A. from Rutgers University and an M.F.A. from Cornell University.

Diaz explained, "A job at one of the greatest schools in the world is hard to turn down. But I stayed for the brilliant students. I've been to a lot of schools and my students here have no equal. They are nuts half the time, sure, but they are amazing almost all the time."

According to Diaz, despite attending a heavily technical school, MIT students don't seem to approach writing any differently from other students.

"They have less time for it because of their other classes," he said. "It's hard to generalize, but on average, like many select college students, my MIT youth tend not to think of the arts as central to their career paths. I'm here to argue the opposite."

As both a professor and an award-winning novelist who was once a college student, too, Diaz has some advice for aspiring writers: "Read. And focus on being an artist; we have way too many entertainers."



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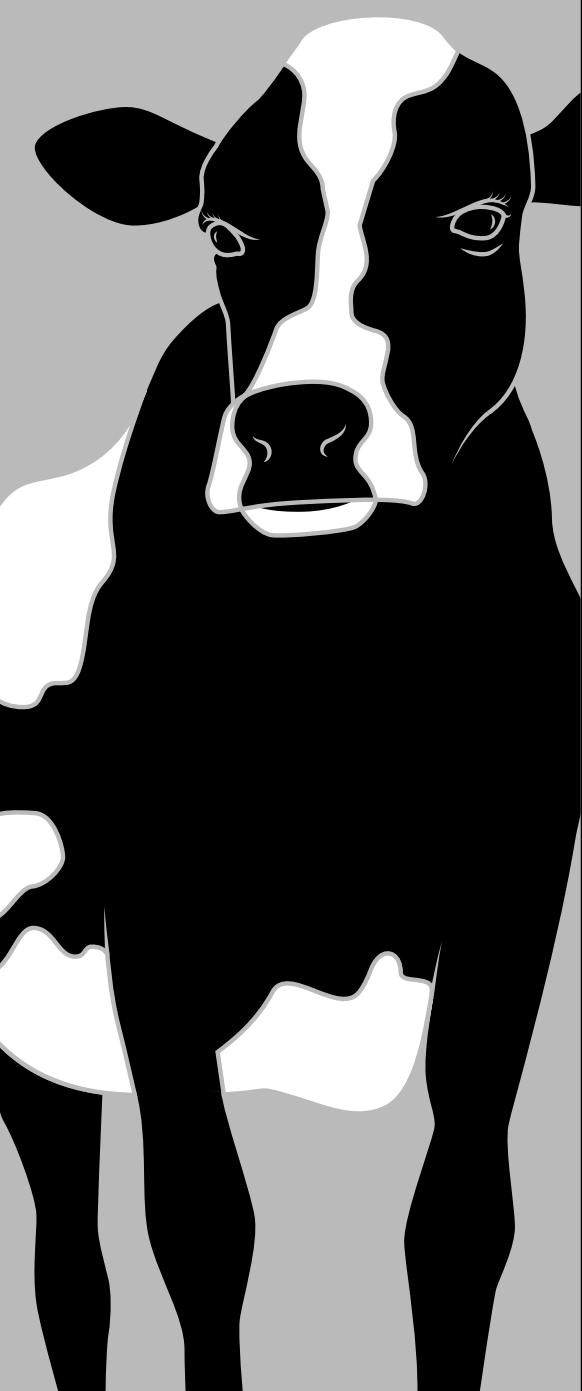
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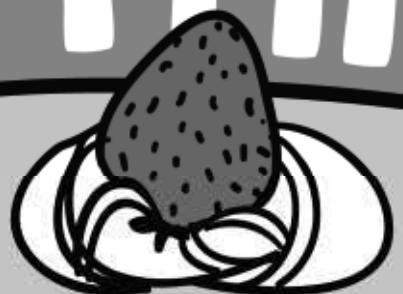
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# National Football League predictions, week 5

## After defeating the Patriots, San Francisco 49ers will blow past Buffalo Bills

By J. Austin Osborne  
SPORTS STAFF

### Philadelphia Eagles @ Pittsburgh Steelers

Sunday, Oct. 7 1 p.m.

Their wins are not pretty, but they are still wins. The Eagles won another close game last week against the Giants, becoming the first team in NFL history to win their first three games by a combined four points. Their defense looked outstanding all night. Even without getting a sack, they flustered Eli Manning all game and forced him into numerous bad throws. LeSean McCoy broke free in the second half for some huge gains and, most importantly, this was Philadelphia's first game of the year with no turnovers. Pittsburgh will be tough to beat coming off the bye week, but they have not looked very good so far this season. Expect the Eagles to get through to Ben Roethlisberger many times this game due to the shoddy Steelers' offensive line.

*Prediction: 17-10 Eagles*

### Green Bay Packers @ Indianapolis Colts

Sunday, Oct. 7 1 p.m.

If Green Bay hasn't seemed like its normal dominant self, that's probably because they've been playing against some really outstanding defenses in the early season. In their shootout with the Saints, Aaron Rodgers threw for over 300 yards and 4 touchdowns. They overcame a bad call on a fumbled kickoff late in the game that allowed the Saints to retain the ball, and they walked away victorious. Off Indianapolis' bye week, they should have a fairly good game plan going into this game. They simply aren't talented enough to beat the Pack, however, and Green Bay should win easily.

*Prediction: 31-17 Packers*

### Cleveland Browns @ New York Giants

Sunday, Oct. 7 1 p.m.

The Browns actually did a good job hanging with the Ravens, but that shouldn't be a surprise. Even though they are winless, they have stuck with every team they've played this

season, mostly due to their defensive play. The Giants are notorious for playing badly in the

early season, but they have been performing better this year. Their defense has not played to their Super Bowl potential, but Eli Manning has been able to bail them out of trouble. This game, however, is a perfect set up for a trap game for New York. They play San Francisco next week, and if they start looking ahead to that game and let the Browns hang around, Cleveland could easily shock the Giants.

*Prediction: 20-17 Browns*

### Atlanta Falcons @ Washington Redskins

Sunday, Oct. 7 1 p.m.

Atlanta is considered the best team in the NFC. They have looked outstanding their first four weeks, winning even when they aren't playing their best. Matt Ryan looks like an MVP, with a 70 percent completion percentage and an 11-2 touchdown-interception ratio. Washington won a crazy game last week against the Buccaneers with a game winning drive by Robert Griffin III. He has certainly carried the Redskins into respectability, but they still are not good enough to challenge Atlanta. Atlanta wins big.

*Prediction: 34-10 Falcons*

### Miami Dolphins @ Cincinnati Bengals

Sunday, Oct. 7 1 p.m.

Even in a loss, Ryan Tannehill had the best game of his young career. He threw for over 400 yards and nearly led the Dolphins to an overtime win over the undefeated Cardinals. Tannehill has been improving every week and is developing into a serviceable starting quarterback. Cincinnati has been clicking on all cylinders since their week 1 loss to Baltimore. Although their opponents haven't exactly been great teams, Andy Dalton and A. J. Green have been terrific in the early season. The Bengals can win a shootout with anybody, and their defense can hold back

teams enough to get by.

*Prediction: 28-13 Bengals*

### Baltimore Ravens @ Kansas City Chiefs

Sunday, Oct. 7 1 p.m.

Baltimore did what they were supposed to last week and beat division rival Cleveland. They played well although the score was closer than they would have liked. Joe Flacco had a great game,

and he looks to have really improved from last season. The Chiefs have looked awful this season, especially in their latest game against the Chargers. They had six turnovers that led to a 37-20 blowout loss. Their offense goes as Jamaal Charles goes, and Baltimore knows that. Expect the Ravens to shut Charles down and win easily.

*Prediction: 31-10 Ravens*

### Seattle Seahawks @ Carolina Panthers

Sunday, Oct. 7 4:05 p.m.

Seattle has been one of the most inconsistent teams this season. Fresh off their win against the Packers (questionable or not), they should have been able to come into St. Louis and put in

a better effort than they did. Russell Wilson was terrible, throwing 3 interceptions in the game. He really needs to play more consistently if the Seahawks want to win the competitive NFC West. Carolina almost topped the NFC-leading Falcons last week, mostly due to their ferocious pass rush that sacked Matt Ryan seven times. If they can get that kind of pressure on Wilson, he will become flustered and the Panthers may be able to squeak out a win.

*Prediction: 17-13 Panthers*

### Chicago Bears @ Jacksonville Jaguars

Sunday, Oct. 7 4:05 p.m.

Chicago looked great in their win against Dallas, grabbing 5 interceptions and returning two of them for a touchdown. The duo of Jay Cutler and Brandon Marshall was having trouble producing so far this season, but they seemed to figure it out last week. Jacksonville relied heavily on

Blaine Gabbert last week rather than their All-Pro running back Maurice Jones-Drew. This proved to be a bad decision, as they were beaten handily by the Bengals and failed to get anything going on offense. Chicago will easily take advantage of this stagnant Jaguars offense.

*Prediction: 30-7 Bears*

### Denver Broncos @ New England Patriots

Sunday, Oct. 7 4:25 p.m.

Denver routed the Raiders last week, largely on the arm of Peyton Manning. Manning had a great game going 30/38 for over 300 yards. The Patriots, on the other hand, looked terrible in

the first half, allowing the Bills to gather a 14-7 lead at halftime. Tom Brady then proceeded to lead the Patriots on six straight touchdown drives to end up blowing out the Bills. This game brings back memories of the epic Peyton Manning/Tom Brady battles of old, but it may not turn out that way. The Patriots are much better than the Broncos and Manning, while still a good quarterback, isn't who he used to be. Brady wins this one.

*Prediction: 34-23 Patriots*

### Buffalo Bills @ San Francisco 49ers

Sunday, Oct. 7 4:25 p.m.

With the return of Fred Jackson, Buffalo should be able to compete for a playoff spot in the AFC this year. After scaring the Patriots, they have shown that they can hang with the best teams in the NFL, at least for one half. If they can maintain that level of play they should be fine going forward. The 49ers returned to their form last week after losing to the Vikings the week before. They absolutely dominated the Jets in every facet of the game. They rushed for over 200 yards and their defense looked outstanding the whole game. Expect them to blow past the Bills.

*Prediction: 27-7 49ers*

### Tennessee Titans @ Minnesota Vikings

Sunday, Oct. 7 4:25 p.m.

Chris Johnson finally had a Chris Johnson-esque game, rushing for 141 yards. Even more im-

pressive, his game came when the Titans played the Houston Texans, who have one of the best defenses in the league. Minnesota has been surprising thus far this season, coming up with their third win against the Detroit Lions. They returned two kicks for touchdowns and Percy Harvin showed us why he is considered one of the most explosive players in the league. Their defense has been outstanding for the past two weeks, and their play is reminiscent of the team they beat last week, the 49ers. If they continue to play like this, they should be able to grab a playoff spot.

*Prediction: 17-13 Vikings*

### San Diego Chargers @ New Orleans Saints

Sunday, Oct. 7 8:20 p.m.

The Chargers are playing very well at the beginning of the season, which is a good sign for San Diego fans. They have won largely due to their great rush defense that forces teams into mistakes. The Saints just can't get a break. Still winless on the season, it looks as though this year is lost. Drew Brees goes into Sunday Night's game looking to make history, as he tries to throw a touchdown in an NFL record 48 consecutive games.

*Prediction: 34-24 Saints*

### Houston Texans @ New York Jets

Monday, Oct. 8 8:35 p.m.

Houston has easily been the most impressive team in the NFL. They won handily again in another all-around game, with contributions from their defense, Arian Foster, and Matt Schaub. The Jets, on the other hand, have looked like the least impressive team. After being blown out by San Francisco last week, murmurs are starting around the league as to whether or not Mark Sanchez could lead New York to a Super Bowl and if backup Tim Tebow should get a chance to start. If Sanchez looks bad again this week, Tebow may get that chance sooner than he thinks.

*Prediction: 34-7 Texans*

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

### Saturday, October 6

Sailing vs. Brass Rat/Sir Ian McFarlane  
Football vs. Plymouth State University  
Women's Soccer vs. Mount Holyoke College

### Sunday, October 7

Sailing vs. Brass Rat/Sir Ian McFarlane

8 a.m., Charles River

1 p.m., Roberts Field

5 p.m., Roberts Field

8 a.m., Charles River

# Women's tennis dominates doubles against Wellesley

## MIT takes first place in NEWMAC standings

By Phil Hess

DAPER STAFF

In a battle that would determine first place in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference women's tennis

standings, MIT swept the doubles matches against Wellesley College and then split the singles matches to come away with a 6-3 victory. The win lifts MIT into sole possession of first place in the NEWMAC standings, moving the Engineers to 4-1 overall and 3-0 in the NEWMAC. Wellesley fell to 3-2 and 2-1 in the conference.

In the rematch of last season's NEWMAC championship match that was won by Wellesley, MIT took two early points in doubles play with 8-3 wins in both the Nos. 2 and 3 matches. In what turned into a battle at No. 1, the MIT team of Lauren C. Quisenberry '14 and Victoria Tam '16 held off the team of Diana Granger/Sojung Lee

with a 9-7 score.

Playing in the No. 1 singles slot for the first time this season, Vynnie J. Kong '15 kept the points going up for MIT as she downed Erica Choo, 6-1, 6-4. Julia C. Hsu '14 then delivered the victory for the Engineers before Wellesley could get on the board. Playing at No. 5, Hsu held off Abby Esrock in the first set before going on to take a 7-5, 6-1 win.

Wellesley bounced back with a pair of wins, with Catherine Matulis taking a 6-4, 6-2 win over Michelle M. Dutt '15 at No. 4 and Diana Granger getting a 6-4, 6-2 decision over senior Candace Wu at No. 2. In the closest match of the night, Tam picked up the final point for MIT with a 7-6 (0), 3-6, 10-7 decision in the No. 3 match.

Wellesley scored the final point of the match in the No. 6 contest when Suzanne Barth scored a 6-3, 6-3 win over freshman Meghan Vasireddy.

MIT plays again on Saturday at Clark University for a 1 p.m. match.



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